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Photos and video footage can be found here

SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK'S 50TH ROBERT A. HEINLEIN BLOOD DRIVE AT COMIC-CON EXCEEDS GOAL, COLLECTING MORE THAN 3,500 PINTS

Historic milestone strengthens summer blood supply for local patients

SAN DIEGO (July 26, 2026) - Comic-Con International and San Diego Blood Bank celebrated a historic milestone this week as the 50th Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive collected **over 3,500 pints of blood** during its five-day run at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.

Held July 22–26, the milestone event helped strengthen the region's blood supply during one of the most challenging times of year for blood donation and gifted donors with a limited-edition Marvel® Spider-Man® T-shirt.

"The Comic-Con community has shown for nearly 50 years that heroes don't just exist in comic books—they show up by donating blood," said Douglas Morton, CEO of San Diego Blood Bank. "Every donation helps ensure patients have the blood they need when it matters most. We thank everyone who made this historic 50th drive a success and encourage anyone who missed it to donate at a San Diego Blood Bank donor center or mobile blood sometime soon."

"The community may recognize Comic-Con as the weeklong celebration of comics and related popular art, but many may not realize those who attend also literally contribute to the life blood of the city," said David Glanzer, spokesperson for Comic-Con, "our nearly 50 year collaboration has been a tremendous honor and we thank all donors, the wonderful volunteers and of course The San Diego Blood Bank who improve the lives of countless people through this life-saving endeavor."

For those who could not make it to the drive, San Diego Blood Bank is offering the limited-edition Spider-Man T-shirt to anyone who donates at a San Diego Blood Bank donor center or mobile blood drive July 27 - August 31, 2026, (while supplies last).

Since 1977, the Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive at Comic-Con has been an important part of the San Diego convention. In its long history, over 111,920 pints of blood have been donated by Comic-Con attendees, exhibitors, professionals, volunteers, and staff, potentially impacting over 335,000 lives over the last 49 years.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. Donors are asked to arrive hydrated with photo ID and to allow about one hour to donate blood from registration through recovery. Donors do not need a convention badge to donate blood.

Appointments will be honored first, walk-ins welcome. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at sandiegobloodbank.org/donate or by calling 619-400-8251.

About San Diego Blood Bank

San Diego Blood Bank, also operating as Southern California Blood Bank, is a nonprofit blood and biotherapies healthcare organization dedicated to saving lives and advancing community health. As part of one of the nation's largest nonprofit blood services providers, Vitalant, San Diego Blood Bank serves hospitals throughout Southern California with a safe and reliable blood supply, specialized laboratory services, transfusion medicine expertise, and support for medical research. Through the generosity of blood donors, volunteers, and financial supporters, the organization is committed to improving patient outcomes and advancing innovation in healthcare for the communities it serves. Learn more at SanDiegoBloodBank.org.

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